

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 CU-02 OMB-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 /087 W
-----011832 090837 /41

R 011155Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8568
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 0746

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, TU
SUBJECT: POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN ISTANBUL

REF: ISTANBUL 659

SUMMARY: IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT STUDENT AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES
IN ISTANBUL, SEVERAL ASPECTS MAY SIGNAL NEW TRENDS. LEFTIST
TERRORISTS SINGLED OUT HOME OF FORMER PRESIDENT BAYAR FOR BOMBING
AND POLICE SEEM TO BE TAKING MORE AGGRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST
EXTREME RIGHTIST STUDENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. LEFTIST TERRORISTS CONTINUED SERIES OF BOMBINGS IN APPARENT
COMMEMORATION OF DEATH OF TURKISH PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY
"MARTYR" ULAS BARDAKCI, AS ANTICIPATED REFTTEL, FOUR BOMBS
EXPLODED FEBRUARY 22 IN VARIOUS PARTS OF CITY. MOST NOTABLE TARGET
WAS HOME OF FORMER PRESIDENT CELAL BAYAR. FOLLOWING NIGHT TWO
MORE EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED INVOLVING A POLICE VEHICLE AND A LOCAL
HEADQUARTERS OF RIGHT-WING YOUTH GROUP. AS HAS USUALLY BEEN
THE CASE IN THESE RECURRING INCIDENTS, LITTLE DAMAGE WAS DONE BY
ANY OF THE BOMBS AND THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES. GROUP CALLING
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ITSELF THE MARXIST-LENINIST ARMED PROPAGANDA UNIT CLAIMED
CREDIT FOR THE FIRST FOUR BOMBINGS AND HAS, ACCORDING TO THE POLICE,
BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR A NUMBER OF OTHER SUCH INCIDENTS OVER PAST YEAR.

2. DISTURBING ASPECT OF THESE MOST RECENT BOMBS IS THAT IN CASE
OF BAYAR'S HOME, AND PERHAPS IN ONE OTHER INSTANCE, SPECIFIC
INDIVIDUALS RATHER THAN INSTITUTIONS, WERE TARGETED. IF LEFTIST

TERRORISTS SHOULD MOUNT SERIOUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRESTIGIOUS (AND IN MANY CONSERVATIVE QUARTERS REVERED) FIGURES LIKE BAYAR, THEIR POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTING TURKISH POLITICS COULD BE INCREASED BY QUANTUM JUMP.

3. ON STUDENT FRONT, REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY YOUTH BRANCH MEMBER WAS SHOT TO DEATH FEBRUARY 19 IN ENCOUNTER WITH RIGHT-WING STUDENTS. AS IS OFTEN CASE IN SUCH DEATHS, FUNERAL OBSERVANCE, WHICH WAS HEAVILY ATTENDED AFFAIR INCLUDING RPP DEPUTIES, PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN AND RPP MAYOR ISVAN, SPARKED FURTHER VIOLENCE WHICH RESULTED IN DEATH OF RECENTLY RETIRED WORKER WHO WAS INNOCENT BYSTANDER CAUGHT IN GUNFIRE OF OPPOSING GROUPS. IN WHAT MANY REGARD AS SURPRISING DEVELOPMENT, POLICE SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED AND CHARGED TWO STUDENTS, WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS MEMBERS OF RIGHT-WING NATIONAL ACTION PARTY (NAP) YOUTH ORGANIZATION, FOR KILLING OF RPP YOUTH. FOLLOWING DAY LOCAL NAP LEADERS DENIED THOSE ARRESTED WERE MEMBERS OF NAP. IF CASE IS PROSECUTED, IT WOULD BE FIRST INSTANCE WE KNOW OF DURING PAST YEAR IN WHICH THOSE GUILTY OF STUDENT KILLINGS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO COURT.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER RECENT SIGNS THAT ISTANBUL POLICE MAY BE TAKING LESS TOLERANT ATTITUDE TOWARD EXTREME RIGHTIST STUDENT GROUPS. POLICE RAIDED RIGHT-WING "COMMANDOS" HIDE-OUT FEBRUARY 16, DETAINED SIX SUSPECTS AND CONFISCATED CACHE OF WEAPONS. IN SEPARATE CASE INVOLVING BIZARRE KIDNAP-MURDER REPORTEDLY CARRIED OUT BY "COMMANDOS", WHICH HAS EXCITED CONSIDERABLE INDIGNATION IN LEFTIST PRESS, POLICE REPORTEDLY ARE GATHERING SUSPECTS. FACT THAT POLICEMAN WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOT AND CRITICALLY WOUNDED IN RECENT BAR INCIDENT BY STUDENT WHO WAS QUOTED BY PRESS AS SAYING HE WAS "COMMANDO" MAY BE FACTOR IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE MORE VIGOROUS POLICE ACTION AGAINST EXTREME RIGHTIST YOUTH.
OGDEN

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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